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INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(51) International Patent Classification⁶ : A01N 25/10	A1	(11) International Publication Number: WO 00/00023 (43) International Publication Date: 6 January 2000 (06.01.00)
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US99/11263 (22) International Filing Date: 20 May 1999 (20.05.99) (30) Priority Data: 09/106,680 29 June 1998 (29.06.98) US (71) Applicant: HYDROMER, INC. [US/US]; 35 Columbia Road, Branchburg, NJ 08876 (US). (72) Inventors: EHRHARD, Joseph; 2 Pegg Road, Flemington, NJ 08822 (US). EKNOIAN, Michael; 115 Pulaski Street, Newark, NJ 07105 (US). (74) Agent: BARON, Ronald, J.; Hoffmann & Baron, LLP, 6900 Jericho Turnpike, Syosset, NY 11791 (US).		(81) Designated States: AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW, ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, SD, SL, SZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG). Published <i>With international search report.</i>
(54) Title: HYDROPHILIC POLYMER BLENDS USED TO PREVENT COW SKIN INFECTIONS (57) Abstract The invention discloses a mammalian teat dip for controlling mastitis, a method for preparing the composition and a method of treatment of mammals. The composition contains a film-forming polymer blend and at least one antimicrobial. The polymer blend contains a solvent-soluble, thermoplastic polyurethane and a hydrophilic poly(N-vinyl lactam). Upon application to mammalian skin, this composition leaves a long-lasting, water-resistant, residual, elastic film which treats and protects mammalian skin from infection.		

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HYDROPHILIC POLYMER BLENDS
USED TO PREVENT COW SKIN INFECTIONS
BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

5 The effective management and maintenance of large dairy herds and the
production of dairy products has been a major agricultural accomplishment. One of
the problems in maintaining large herds is the health of the individual animals. One
health problem in individual animals of dairy herds which causes significant
economic problems relates to mastitis. Often during milking, the skin of the dairy
10 animal is irritated by automatic milking machines. This irritation, characterized by
redness and occasionally areas of broken skin, can be the site of a microbial attack
causing mastitis. Animals that contract mastitis must be removed from service
resulting in the loss of the dairy output. As a result, a significant amount of attention
has been focused on preventing the development of mastitis or treating mastitis in
15 dairy herds.

 The dairy farmer is faced with two different types of mastitis infections.
Contagious mastitis is spread during the milking process through contact between the
animal and dairy equipment that may carry a source of a mastitis pathogen.
Contagious mastitis is most easily controlled using germicidal post milking teat dips.
20 Such germicidal dips kill bacteria that are introduced onto the surface of the animal
from the milking machines. The second type of mastitis, environmental mastitis, is
caused by contamination of the animal surface by materials from the barn yard
environment, fields, barn interior, etc. Such pathogens include E. coli, Streptococcus
uberis, klebsiella and others. Such contamination occurs as the animal moves through
25 its environment. Environmental mastitis is best treated with a barrier film that
protects sensitive tissues from contamination.

 In the treatment and prevention of mastitis the use of protective coatings,
formed from aqueous coating systems, on the animals has been an option for many
years. One class of coating compositions are actively antimicrobial and prevent the
30 incidence of infection in the animal through the presence of an active biocide in the

coating. Another class of coating materials are simply film barriers formed on the skin surface to prevent contact between vulnerable tissues and the environment. Many antimicrobial materials are incompatible with a variety of these polymeric or film forming materials. Recent product developments provide coatings for teat skin which
5 form film barriers, as well as, contain antimicrobial agents.

In the typical operations of a dairy herd, the herd is brought into a milking station, the udder is washed to remove the barrier film. Any delay in removal of the film can substantially reduce productivity and substantially increase time required to deal with a large herd. Further, difficulty in removing the film can cause abrasion or
10 bruising to the animal which can promote mastitis. Therefore, it is important that the films are easily removed in less than 15 minutes, preferably in less than 10 minutes, using water or mild cleaning solutions. In the periods between milking, the animal is released into the environment to graze. While grazing the animal is exposed to environmental water from dew, mud, rain and ponds. This exposure to water can
15 cause the barrier film to rub off.

Among the materials used in barrier-type or film-type teat dips are solubilized liquids, polyvinylpyrrolidone and other vinyl polymers, protein hydrozylate, natural and synthetic gums, water, ethanol, methanol, isopropanol, soluble polymers, unsaturated fatty oils, cellulose derivatives, acrylic polymer lattices, etc.

20 Latex provides an effective covering of teat skin which can be combined with an antimicrobial agent (U.S. Patent No. 4,113,854). However, the latex material has the serious drawback of not being readily removable when the next milking time arrives. The result can be a partially removed coating, leaving behind particles which become trapped in the milk line filters. The difficulties of removal can also result in
25 excessive rubbing of the teat skin, thus leading to irritation. Furthermore the use of latex can potentially result in milk contamination.

On the other hand, teat dips which are easy to remove, for example, polyvinyl alcohol based teat dips, do not provide adequate water resistance. Such films do not remain on a dairy animal for the duration between milking periods. Due to exposure to water, these films wear off in about 3 to 4 hours. Without an adequate barrier film the dairy animal is vulnerable to environmental pathogens which will promote mastitis in the herd.

The following disclosures have been identified as part of the technology of the related art. Typical disclosures of disinfectant after-milking teat dips (aimed at destroying any pathogens remaining on the teats after milking) can be found in British Patent 1 144 637 (Kelco Chemicals, Ltd.), published on Mar. 5, 1969; Meave et al., J. Dairy Science, 52:6696 (1969); Dodd et al., 'Mastitis Control,' Biennial Reviews (1970) University of Redding, England, National Institute of Research of Dairying, pp. 21-57; Lentsch, U.S. Pat. No. 4,258,056; Lentsch et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,376,787; Yang, U.S. Pat. No. 4,446,153; Marhevka, U.S. Pat. No. 5,017,369; Cantor et al., U.S. Pat. No. 3,728,449; Pankey, 'Postmilking Teat Antisepsis,' Symposium on Bovine Mastitis, Veterinary Clinics of North America: Large Animal Practice, Vol. 6, No. 2, July 1984; Pankey et al., 'Efficacy Evaluation of Two New Teat Dip Formulations Under Experimental Challenge,' Journal Dairy Science, 68:462-465 (1985), Philpot et al., 'Hygiene in the Prevention of Udder Infections. V. Efficacy of Teat Dips Under Experimental Exposure to Mastitis Pathogens,' Journal Dairy Science, 61:956-963 (1978), Bennett, 'Teat Dip as a Component of Coliform Mastitis Control, Dairy and Food Sanitation,' Vol. 2, No. 3, pp. 110-114 (March 1982), Eberhart et al., 'Germicidal Teat Dip in a Herd with Low Prevalence of Streptococcus agalactiae and Staphylococcus aureus Mastitis,' Journal Dairy Science, 66:1390-1395 (1983).

Typical disclosures of protective or barrier-type teat dips can be found in Loosemore et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,641,498, Schmidt et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,503,338, Acres et al., U.S. Pat. No. 3,066,071, Krause, U.S. Pat. No. 3,222,252, Philpot et al., Journal Dairy Science, 58:205-216, Coughman et al., U.S. Pat. No. 3,993,777,

Pugliese, U.S. Patent No. 4,049,830, Silver et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,199,564, Dybas et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,311,709 and Andrews et al., U.S. Pat. No. 4,113,854. Still also for examples of such materials, see Farnsworth, Journal of American Veterinary Medical Association, 177:441 (1980) and Farnsworth et al., The Bovine Practitioner, No. 16, pp. 28-29 (1981). Still further, please review Canadian Patent No. 1,065,254 and European Published Application No. 25,640 (Mar. 25, 1981).

A substantial need exists for an antimicrobial and barrier teat dip that can be easily and rapidly removed during milking operations while imparting sustained water resistance between milking periods.

10

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is a new mammalian teat dip composition as well as a method for treating mammalian skin. This film-forming composition exhibits antimicrobial properties against the typical contagious mastitis causing pathogens and barrier properties protecting the animal from environmental mastitis.

15

This aqueous based composition includes a solution of a water-resistant, film forming, polymer blend and at least one antimicrobial agent. Examples of antimicrobial agents include iodine, chlorhexidene, bronopol and triclosan. Upon application to a substrate, this composition leaves a long-lasting, water-resistant, residual, elastic film which treats and protects mammalian skin from infection.

20

In one formulation the iodine-containing antimicrobial agent is added as an aqueous solution of polyvinylpyrrolidone-iodine (PVP-I₂). In another formulation the iodine-containing antimicrobial agent is added as an aqueous solution of iodine metal and iodide salts. In yet another formulation the iodine-containing antimicrobial agent is added as an aqueous solution of iodine metal, hydriodic acid, and a surfactant. The surfactant can range widely in its degree of ionization, including no ionization.

25

The chlorhexidine-containing antimicrobial agent can be added as an aqueous solution of chlorhexidine salts.

5 The polymer blend, as taught by patent 4,642,267 (Hydromer, Inc.), consists essentially of two polymer components. One polymer component is an organic, solvent-soluble, preformed, thermoplastic polyurethane which has no reactive isocyanate groups. The other polymer component is a hydrophilic poly(N-vinyl lactam). This polymer blend is capable of withstanding exposure to water without a significant loss of the hydrophilic poly(N-vinyl lactam).

10 The polyurethane of the polymer blend can be derived from an aromatic polyisocyanate and a polyether polyol; or from an aliphatic polyisocyanate and a polyether polyol; or from an aromatic polyisocyanate and a polyester polyol; or from an aliphatic polyisocyanate and a polyester polyol.

The poly(N-vinyl lactam) of the polymer blend is a water-soluble polyvinylpyrrolidone homopolymer or a poly(N-vinyl caprolactam) homopolymer.

15 The polymer blend may contain at least one additional compatible polymer component. The additional polymer component is a homopolymer or copolymer of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of alpha-olefin, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride, hydroxyethylmethacrylate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, vinyl acetate, vinyl alcohol, and vinyl ether.

20 The composition may also contain water-soluble or water-dispersible skin conditioning agents, such as glycerin; glycols; polyols, such as polyethylene glycol; lanolin; aloe vera and vitamins. The composition may also contain colorants, fragrances and insect repellants.

25 The present invention also provides a method of protecting a mammalian teat from infection. This method includes applying the composition to the mammalian teat

and evaporating the solvent portion of the composition to form a protective water resistant film.

5 The instant composition in addition to protecting the animal from contamination and allowing easy removability prior to milking, provides an increased resistance to premature loss. Thus, when an animal is released into the environment, the composition will be resistant to environmental water, remaining on the animal for the period between milkings. Unlike polyvinyl alcohol-based formulations which wear off in about 3 to 4 hours, the instant invention imparts water resistance up to 8 hours. Moreover, when the animal returns to the milking site, the antimicrobial barrier coating can be easily removed in about 5 minutes using an aqueous wash. 10 Milking can continue without delay and after milking is finished, the animal can again be treated with the aqueous material forming a new antimicrobial barrier film.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

15 The aqueous compositions and the resulting films of this invention provide barrier layers containing antimicrobial agents which prevent the contact between the animal skin and microorganisms either from the environment or from other animals. These films provide extended water resistance without compromising the ease of removability necessary to run a productive dairy operation. This invention also discloses a method of protecting mammalian teat skin from infection.

20 The novel aqueous mammalian teat dip composition includes a solution of a water-resistant, film-forming polymer blend and at least one antimicrobial agent. The composition contains an amount of the polymer sufficient to form a water-resistant film upon topical application. The antimicrobial agent is present in the composition in an amount which is sufficient to protect mammalian skin from infection by typical 25 contagious and environmental mastitis-causing pathogens. Upon application to a substrate, this composition forms a water-resistant, residual, elastic film.

5 The composition can include 50% to 95% water; 0.01% to 2.0% of a thickener; 0.1% to 20% of a water-resistant, film forming, polymer blend; up to 10% of an aqueous acid; up to 10% of an aqueous base and about 0.05% to 5% of an antimicrobial agent. Examples of antimicrobial agents are iodine, chlorhexidine, bronopol and triclosan. The composition may also include 0.05% to 10% of one or more water-soluble or water-dispersible skin conditioning agents.

10 One preferred antimicrobial agent of the invention is an aqueous solution of iodine (AST, Inc.). A formulation of this aqueous solution contains 50% to 99% water, 0.1% to 50% iodine metal, and 1% to 50% iodide salts. Another formulation of this aqueous solution contains 50% to 99% water, 0.1% to 50% iodine metal, 1% to 50% hydriodic acid, and 1% to 50% of a surfactant. The surfactant can be cationic, anionic, non-ionic or any combination of these. Iodine can also be added as a powder
15 of polyvinylpyrrolidone-iodine (PVP-I₂). The aqueous solution formed from PVP-I₂ powder contains 50% to 99% water and 20% to 99% PVP-I₂.

Another preferred antimicrobial agent of the invention is chlorhexidine. Chlorhexidine may be added as an aqueous solution which includes 50% to 99% water and 0.1% to 50% chlorhexidine salts.

20 The polymer blend used in the instant invention is taught by patent 4,642,267 (Hydromer, Inc.). It consists of essentially two polymer components. One polymer component is an organic, solvent-soluble, preformed, thermoplastic polyurethane having no reactive isocyanate groups. The other polymer component is a hydrophilic poly(N-vinyl lactam). This polymer blend is capable of withstanding exposure to
25 water without significant loss of the hydrophilic poly(N-vinyl lactam).

The polyurethane of the polymer blend can be derived from an aromatic polyisocyanate and a polyether polyol; or from an aliphatic polyisocyanate and a

polyether polyol; or from an aromatic polyisocyanate and a polyester polyol; or from an aliphatic polyisocyanate and a polyester polyol.

The poly(N-vinyl lactam) of the polymer blend is a water-soluble polyvinylpyrrolidone homopolymer or a poly(N-vinyl caprolactam) homopolymer.

5 The polymer blend may contain at least one additional compatible polymer component. The additional polymer component is a homopolymer or copolymer of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of alpha-olefin, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride, hydroxyethylmethacrylate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, vinyl acetate, vinyl alcohol, and vinyl ether.

10 These blends exhibit properties intermediate those of the polyurethane component and those of the poly(N-vinyl lactam) component. Blends which are predominantly made up of the hydrophilic poly(N-vinyl lactam) component readily absorb water to become soft and slippery. Blends which are predominantly made up of the polyurethane component are relatively hard but still wettable. Exhibiting
15 properties intermediate of those of polyurethane and poly(N-vinyl lactam) enables the dual characteristic of the present invention. Though capable of being removed easily, the present invention provides sustained water resistance.

 Exposure of the claimed compositions to water, even for prolonged periods, does not result in any significant loss of the hydrophilic poly(N-vinyl lactam)
20 component, possibly as a result of associative forces with the polyurethane component, chain entanglement, or both. Whatever may, in fact, be the basis for this property, this property contributes to the ability of the composition to remain on dairy animals despite prolonged contact with environmental water.

 Since the polyurethane is a preformed polymer having no reactive isocyanate
25 groups, it is stable in solution for indefinite periods of time. Accordingly, polymer products of the instant invention can be readily formed at the point of application as

needed simply by evaporating any solvent(s) with which they may be associated. This versatility makes the instant products especially convenient for use as coatings.

5 The composition can be applied to the dairy animal in a variety of ways. The material can be sprayed, brushed, dabbed, or flooded onto the susceptible sites. One common application mode is by means of a dip. The composition is placed in a small container with a shape adapted to the teat. The teat is then dipped into the container filled with the aqueous composition.

10 The composition may contain various viscosity enhancers or thickeners. The thickener causes aqueous compositions to cling to the surface skin of the animal and enables the composition to resist waste through excessive dripping. Thus, the composition remains in place until it is dry and the barrier layer is formed. In its preferred embodiment, the viscosity of the composition ranges from about 1 - 1500 cP. This range in viscosity allows an adequate amount of the composition to remain
15 on the mammalian teat when applied without being overly viscous which would make application difficult by dipping or other methods. Thickeners which may be used in the present invention include natural gums such as xanthan gum (Keltrol TF, Keltrol).

20 After the mammalian teats have been coated with the composition of this invention, the resulting coating is permitted to dry to an adherent solid film on the teats. Typically, some of the still liquid coating material flows down to the teat end where a plug-like deposit is formed. This deposit or plug also dries to form an adherent solid. This plug is capable of sealing off the teat canal.

25 The protective barrier formed on the mammalian skin is a residual, elastic film, that is water-resistant, when applied to these skin surfaces. The film is flexible, long-lived and resists cracking. The film contains the antimicrobial material that kills microorganisms on the skin surface. Such antimicrobial action is important because the milking operation can often spread mastitis causing microorganisms which can under certain circumstances cause inflammation and infection in abraded or affected

skin resulting from contact with milking machines during milking operations. Additionally, the barrier film also protects the mammalian skin from mastitis-causing organisms between milkings. The films of this invention are highly water-resistant. They can remain on the mammal for up to eight hours despite exposure of the animal to environmental water such as rain, dew, ponds, mud, etc. In contrast, polyvinyl alcohol-based formulations wear off in about three to four hours.

Surprisingly, despite the highly water-resistant feature of this composition, the film and the plug are removable without tedious physical steps. A few minutes of a warm-water wash with a mild surfactant is fully effective for the removal of the film.

The composition can also contain water-soluble or water-dispersible skin conditioning or moisturizing agents which do not degrade barrier properties. The preferred range of these agents in the composition is 0.05% to 10%. Examples of these ingredients are glycerin; glycols; polyols, such as polyethylene glycol; lanolin; aloe vera and vitamins, such as E, C and A. These agents serve to assist in soothing and retaining moisture on the skin.

Agents such as colorants, fragrances and insect repellants (e.g., citronella) may also be included in the composition.

Buffering agents utilized in this invention include the acid form and base salt of an organic or inorganic acid in such a ratio to produce a resultant pH value for the finished composition from about 4.0 to 8.0.

The following examples are illustrative of the composition of this invention and provide a best mode.

EXAMPLES OF THE INVENTION

Example 1

To 89.5 grams of water was added 0.5 grams of xanthan gum (Keltrol TF, Keltrol) with stirring. The solution was mixed until homogeneous. Then 5.0 grams of
5 a hydrophilic polymer blend as taught by patent 4,642,267 (Hydromer, Inc.) was added with stirring until homogeneous. Next, 5.0 grams of an aqueous iodine solution (AST Inc.) was added and the solution was mixed until well blended. The solution does not drip when cast onto a plate and held vertically, and films cast from the resulting solution are elastic and water-resistant which prevents the spread of mastitis
10 causing organisms.

Example 2

To 86.7 grams of water was added 1.4 grams of citric acid (Fischer Chemical Company) with stirring. Once dissolved, 1.5 grams of 6 molar sodium hydroxide was added to bring the pH to approximately 6.0. Next, 0.5 grams xanthan gum (Keltrol
15 CGT, Keltrol) was added with stirring. The solution was mixed until homogeneous. Then 5.0 grams of a hydrophilic polymer blend as taught by patent 4,642,267 (Hydromer, Inc.) was added with stirring until homogeneous. Next, 5.0 grams of an aqueous iodine solution (AST Inc.) was added and the solution was mixed until well blended. A solution of pH approximately 5.0 does not drip when cast onto a plate and
20 held vertically, and films cast from the resulting solution are elastic and water resistant which prevents the spread of mastitis causing organisms.

Example 3

To 90.4 grams of water was added 1.4 grams of citric acid (Fisher Chemical Company) with stirring. Once dissolved, 1.5 grams of 6 molar sodium hydroxide was
25 added to bring the pH to approximately 6.0. Next, 0.1 grams xanthan gum (Keltrol CGT, Keltrol) was added with stirring. The solution was mixed until homogeneous.

Then 5.0 grams of a hydrophilic polymer blend as taught by patent 4,642,267 (Hydromer Inc.) was added with stirring until homogenous. Next, 5.0 grams of an aqueous iodine solution (AST Inc.) was added and the solution was mixed until well blended. A solution of pH approximately 5.0 does not drip when sprayed on a plate and held vertically, and films cast from the resulting solution are elastic and water resistant which prevents the spread of mastitis causing organisms.

Example 4

To 94.3 grams of water was added 0.5 grams of xanthan gum (Keltrol CGT, Keltrol) with stirring. The solution was mixed until homogeneous, then 5.0 grams of a hydrophilic polymer blend as taught by patent 4,642,267 (Hydromer Inc.) with stirring until homogeneous. Next, 0.2 grams bronopol (Inolex Chemical) was added and the solution mixed until well blended. The solution does not drip when cast onto a plate and held vertically, and films cast from the resulting solution are elastic and water resistant which prevents the spread of mastitis causing organisms.

15

Example 5

To 91.9 grams of water was added 0.1 grams of poly(ethylene oxide) (Americhol) with stirring. The solution was mixed until homogeneous, then 5.0 grams of a hydrophilic polymer blend, as taught by patent 4,642,267 (Hydromer Inc.), was added with stirring until homogeneous. Next, 3.0 grams of an aqueous chlorhexidene gluconate solution was added and mixed until well blended. The solution does not drip when sprayed onto a plate and held vertically, and films cast from the resulting solution are elastic and water-resistant which prevents the spread of mastitis causing organisms.

20

Example 6

To 94.0 grams of water was added 0.5 grams of xanthan gum (Keltrol CGT, Keltrol) with stirring. The solution was mixed until homogeneous. Then 5.0 grams of a hydrophilic polymer blend, as taught by patent 4,642,267 (Hydromer Inc.), was added with stirring until homogeneous. Next, 0.5 grams of triclosan (Ciba Speciality Chemicals) was added and the solution was mixed until dispersed. The solution does not drip when cast onto a plate and held vertically, and films cast from the resulting solution are elastic and water resistant which prevents the spread of mastitis causing organisms

Example 7

To 86.7 grams of water was added 1.4 grams of citric acid (Fisher Chemical Company) with stirring. Once dissolved, 1.5 grams of 6 molar sodium hydroxide was added to bring the pH to approximately 6.0. Next, 0.5 grams of xanthan gum (Keltrol CGT, Keltrol) was added with stirring. The solution was mixed until homogeneous. Then 5.0 grams of a hydrophilic polymer blend as taught by patent 4,642,267 (Hydromer, Inc.) was added with stirring until homogeneous. Next, 5.0 grams of an aqueous iodine solution (AST Inc.) was added and the solution was mixed until well blended. A solution of pH approximately 5.0 does not drip when cast onto a plate and held vertically, and films cast from the resulting solution are elastic and water resistant which prevents the spread of mastitis causing organisms.

Example 8

To 74.7 grams of water was added 1.4 grams of citric acid (Fischer Chemical Company) with stirring. Once dissolved, 1.5 grams of 6 molar sodium hydroxide was added to bring the pH to approximately 6.0. Next, 0.5 grams xanthan gum (Keltrol CGT, Keltrol) was added with stirring. The solution was mixed until homogeneous. Then 5.0 grams of a hydrophilic polymer blend as taught by patent 4,642,267 (Hydromer, Inc.) was added with stirring until homogeneous. Next, 17.0 grams

PVP-I₂ was added and the solution was mixed until well blended. A solution of pH approximately 5.0 does not drip when cast onto a plate and held vertically, and films cast from the resulting solution are elastic and water resistant which prevents the spread of mastitis causing organisms.

5

Example 9

To 86.2 grams of water was added 1.4 grams of citric acid (Fischer Chemical Company) with stirring. Once dissolved, 1.5 grams of 6 molar sodium hydroxide was added to bring the pH to approximately 6.0. Next, 0.5 grams of xanthan gum (Keltrol CGT, Keltrol) was added with stirring. The solution was mixed until homogeneous. Then 5.0 grams of a hydrophilic polymer blend as taught by patent 4,642,267 (Hydromer, Inc.) was added with stirring until homogenous. Next, 5.0 grams of an aqueous iodine solution (AST Inc.) was added and the solution was mixed until well blended. Finally, 0.5 grams of aloe vera (Terry Labs) was added and mixed until homogeneous. A solution of pH approximately 5.0 does not drip when cast onto a plate and held vertically, and films cast from the resulting solution are elastic and water resistant which prevents the spread of mastitis causing organisms.

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Example 10

To 81.7 grams of water was added 1.4 grams of citric acid (Fischer Chemical Company) with stirring. Once dissolved, 1.5 grams of 6 molar sodium hydroxide was added to bring the pH to approximately 6.0. Next, 0.5 grams of xanthan gum (Keltrol CGT, Keltrol) was added with stirring. The solution was mixed until homogeneous. Then 5.0 grams of a hydrophilic polymer blend as taught by patent 4,642,267 (Hydromer, Inc.) was added with stirring until homogenous. Next, 5.0 grams of an aqueous iodine solution (AST Inc.) was added and the solution was mixed until well blended. Finally, 0.5 grams of glycerin (Aldrich Chemical) was added and the solution mixed until homogeneous. A solution of pH approximately 5.0 does not drip when

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cast onto a plate and held vertically, and films cast from the resulting solution are elastic and water resistant which prevents the spread of mastitis causing organisms.

5 While the present invention has been described with reference to specific embodiments thereof, it should be understood by those skilled in this art that various changes may be made and equivalents may be substituted without departing from the true spirit and scope of the invention. In addition, many modifications can be made to adapt a particular situation, material or composition of matter, process, process step or steps, or then-present objective to the spirit of this invention without departing from its essential teachings.

CLAIMS:

1. A mammalian teat dip composition comprising:
 - (i) a solution of a film forming polymer blend comprising a first polymer component which is an organic, solvent-soluble, preformed, thermoplastic polyurethane having no reactive isocyanate groups and a second polymer component which is a hydrophilic poly(N-vinyl lactam), said blend capable of withstanding exposure to water without significant loss of said hydrophilic poly(N-vinyl lactam) in an amount sufficient to form a water-resistant film upon topical application to mammalian skin; and
 - (ii) at least one antimicrobial agent in an amount sufficient to treat and protect mammalian skin from infection.
2. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein said antimicrobial is selected from the group consisting of iodine, chlorhexidine, bronopol and triclosan.
3. A composition according to Claim 2 wherein said antimicrobial is iodine added as an aqueous solution which comprises 50% to 99% water and 20% to 99% polyvinylpyrrolidone.
4. A composition according to Claim 2 wherein said antimicrobial is iodine added as an aqueous solution which comprises 50% to 99% water, 0.1% to 50% iodine metal, and 1% to 50% iodide salts.
5. A composition according to Claim 2 wherein said antimicrobial is iodine added as an aqueous solution which comprises 50% to 99% water, 0.1% to 50% iodine metal, 1% to 50% hydriodic acid, and 1% to 50% of a surfactant.
6. A composition according to Claim 5 wherein said surfactant is cationic, anionic, or non-ionic, and combinations therein.

7. A composition according to Claim 2 wherein said antimicrobial is chlorhexidine added as an aqueous solution which comprises 50% to 99% water and 0.1 to 50% chlorhexidine salts.

8. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein said polyurethane is derived from an aromatic polyisocyanate and a polyether polyol.

9. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein said polyurethane is derived from an aliphatic polyisocyanate and a polyether polyol.

10. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein said polyurethane is derived from an aromatic polyisocyanate and a polyester polyol.

11. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein said polyurethane is derived from an aliphatic polyisocyanate and a polyester polyol.

12. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein the poly(N-vinyl lactam) is a water-soluble polyvinylpyrrolidone homopolymer.

13. A composition according to Claim 1 wherein the poly(N-vinyl lactam) is a poly(N-vinyl caprolactam) homopolymer.

14. A composition according Claim 1 containing at least one additional polymer component which is compatible therewith.

15. A composition according to Claim 14 wherein said additional polymer component is a homopolymer or copolymer of at least one monomer selected from the group consisting of alpha-olefin, vinyl chloride, vinylidene chloride, hydroxyethylmethacrylate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid, vinyl acetate, vinyl alcohol, and vinyl ether.

16. The composition according to Claim 1 further including at least one skin conditioning agent.

17. The skin conditioning agent according to Claim 16 is selected from the group consisting of glycerin, glycols, polyols, lanolin, aloe vera and vitamins.

18. The composition according to Claim 1 further including at least one colorant.

19. The composition according to Claim 1 further including at least one fragrance.

20. The composition according to Claim 1 further including at least one insect repellant.

21. A method of protecting mammalian teat from infection comprising:

- 5 (i) applying to mammalian teat a composition comprising a solution of a film forming polymer blend comprising a first polymer component which is an organic, solvent-soluble, preformed, thermoplastic polyurethane having no reactive isocyanate groups and a second polymer component which is a hydrophilic poly(N-vinyl lactam), said blend capable of withstanding exposure to water without significant loss of said hydrophilic poly(N-vinyl lactam), in an amount sufficient to form a water-resistant film upon application to mammalian skin; and an antimicrobial agent in an amount sufficient to treat and protect mammalian skin from infection; and
- 10 (ii) evaporating solvent of said solution whereby a protective water resistant film is formed on said mammalian teat.

22. A protective film disposed on mammalian teat comprising:

- 15 (i) a solution of a film forming polymer blend comprising a first polymer component which is an organic, solvent-soluble, preformed, thermoplastic polyurethane having no reactive isocyanate groups and a second polymer component

which is a hydrophilic poly(N-vinyl lactam), said blend capable of withstanding exposure to water without significant loss of said hydrophilic poly(N-vinyl lactam), in an amount sufficient to form a water-resistant film upon topical application to mammalian skin; and

- 5 (ii) an antimicrobial agent in an amount sufficient to treat and protect mammalian skin from infection.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT US99/11263

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(6) :A01N 25/10

US CL :424/406, 78.06, 78.25, 438

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 424/406, 78.06, 78.25, 438

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 3,728,449 A (CANTOR et al) 17 April 1973, see Column 1, 2, 4, 5 and example II and IV.	1-22
Y	US 4,642,267 A (CREASY et al) 10 February 1987, see Columns 2-5.	1-22

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	*T* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
A document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	*X* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
E earlier document published on or after the international filing date	*Y* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
L document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	*G* document member of the same patent family
O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
P document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 JULY 1999

Date of mailing of the international search report

24 AUG 1999

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